

*HADLEY*

*THEN*



*AND*



*NOW*



## HADLEY, THEN AND NOW

"From the mountains (Mt. Holyoke)  
To the prairies (Plainville)  
To the ocean white with foam (Connecticut River)  
God bless America (Hadley)  
My home sweet home."

Come with me on a little tour of the town of Hadley, Massachusetts, now three hundred and seventeen years old. There have been many changes over the years but the mountains still stand firm in all their grandeur and the river has been alternately generous and destructive.

West Street with its broad common is the most historic area in Hadley. Here the early settlers built their homes and protected them with a stockade. Today, many of the elm trees are gone but the street maintains all the beauty and majesty of the past. The Connecticut River still flows by both ends of the street. The mile-long common is reputed to be the widest common in the United States. It is on West Street that we find the oldest house in Hadley, built in 1713, a marker noting the location of the first meeting house and a boulder near the birthplace of Major-General Joseph Hooker. Also located on West Street were the first schoolhouse and the hiding place of the Regicides. West Street was the center of the social and religious life of the early settlers. Today there are new houses, new faces and new activities. It is here that the Festival of Lights and Sounds began in 1974. Each year on the Sunday after Christmas, carolers stroll along the street serenading residents in their candle-lighted houses.

As we leave the common and turn east on Russell Street (Route 9) we pass the corner where Parson Russell's house once stood next to the Elmwood Hotel. Today there is a modern Elmwood complex containing shops and a restaurant. Continuing along busy Route 9 we approach two Holy Rosary Church buildings. The older structure was once known as the Russell Church when it stood on West Street. The newer structure was dedicated in 1974. Across the street is the present building housing Hopkins Academy, the oldest school in Western Massachusetts having been founded in 1664 and named for its benefactor, Edward Hopkins. Nearby is a former Hopkins building, now Russell School, housing the upper elementary grades.

The four corners at the intersection of Routes 9 and 47 comprise another historic area. Across from Russell School are the Town Hall and the First Congregational Church designed in the Charles Bulfinch manner with its beautiful Christopher Wren inspired steeple. The Farm Museum completes the southeast corner. To the north is the William Goodwin Library named for an early settler and benefactor. It is also the location of the Hadley Historical Society. Completing the northeast corner are St. John's Catholic Church and the Hooker elementary school named after General Hooker. Two modern branch banks at the northwest

corner stand on the former location of a house and Shipman's Store and Post Office.

Traveling north on Middle Street to River Drive we pause to admire the Porter-Phelps-Huntington House, Hadley's first National Register building. Farther north we come upon the site of the old grist mill and the broom tool factory with its attractive dam. Just beyond is the North Hadley Hall and Library and the Second Congregational Church. River Drive continues north through Russellville to the Sunderland town line.

Returning to the center of town we proceed along Middle Street to the Bay Road where the stone marker alerts us that it is 98 miles to Boston. On the corner is the Ben Smith Tavern, long a center for the social life of the weary traveler. We pass through Hockanum Village noting the old brick schoolhouse with its unusual brick outbuilding, the Bicycle Museum and the highwater signpost recalling some of the devastating floods in the area. To our left is Mt. Holyoke topped by the famous Summit House, once the social center of the Connecticut Valley and a favorite resort area of many national and international personalities. We might even see the colorful and courageous hang gliders soaring into space from a high point on the mountain.

Back to the twentieth century with its traffic, subdivisions and shopping malls, far removed from the more leisurely days of old. Co-existing with all the hustle and bustle in this small New England town are the family farms, the open spaces and the serenity of the little villages of Plainville, Hartsbrook and Russellville.

The proximity of several colleges has altered life in Hadley. The colleges have provided a greater variety of employment opportunities and they have changed the ethnic composition of the town through the residency of many of their employees. The colleges have also enhanced the cultural and recreational life of the Hadley residents. In 1976, Hadley is comprised of a harmonious blend of persons of diverse religious, ethnic and educational backgrounds.

Town government continues to be by town meeting and all elected officials are on a part time basis.

Come back another day and tarry longer and touch the good earth that has sustained the residents of Hadley these many long years. Look at the fields and see the variety of crops grown here: asparagus, potatoes, onions, cucumbers and, to a lesser degree, tobacco. Stop at a roadside stand laden with local produce and see the fruits of the harvest brought forth from Hadley's fine soil.

This is Hadley, Massachusetts, in the year 1976.



HADLEY

THEN AND NOW

1659 - 1976



A PICTORIAL HISTORY

*prepared by*

THE HADLEY BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION

HADLEY, MASSACHUSETTS

1976













West Street looking South



5



WEST STREET

SAMUEL PORTER HOUSE OLDEST HOUSE IN HADLEY BUILT IN 1713  
Most photographed doorway in Hampshire County



*Circa 1900*



*1976*

REYNOLDS FARM ON WEST STREET



*1893*



*1976*



## WEST STREET



*Birthplace of Major-General Joseph Hooker. The house was destroyed by fire in April, 1898.*



*Studio and home of Elbridge Kingsley was located on South West Street.*



*The John Cook House, later the Godin House, was formerly located at the corner of West St. and Cemetery Road. It was removed board by board and rebuilt in Greenwich, Connecticut.*



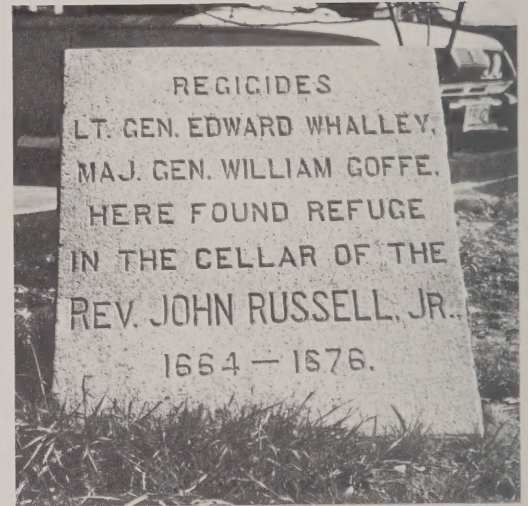
*This marker is located on the north end of the West Street Common*



NORTHEAST CORNER OF WEST AND RUSSELL STREETS



*The Elmwood House, site of the Regicides' secret refuge.  
This post card bears a July 21, 1909, postmark.*



*Regicide marker*

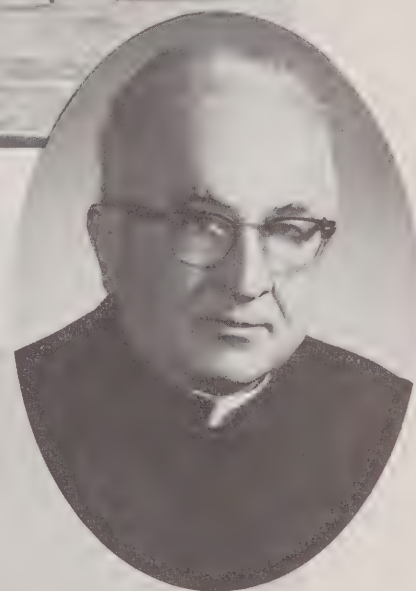


*The Elmwood Complex as it appears today. The house in the earlier photograph is now located near the north end of Middle Street.*





*This was known as the Russell Church when it stood on West Street. It was built in 1841. It was acquired by the Holy Rosary Parish in 1915. Rev. Julius Jaworek was the first pastor. Rev. Joseph J. Sitkowski, the present pastor, is at right.*



*The present Holy Rosary Church was dedicated in December, 1974.*



## HOPKINS ACADEMY



*During its 312 years of existence, Hopkins Academy has had many homes. The one above is the 1909 building with the old gymnasium on the left.*



*The present Hopkins Academy building was built in 1954. The addition was completed in 1965.*



HOPKINS ACADEMY



*Hopkins Academy in 1865*

*Russell School*



*The present Russell School was the Hopkins Academy building of 1894*



SOUTHEAST CORNER OF MIDDLE AND RUSSELL STREETS



*Town Hall, built in 1841, remodeled in 1902 and renovated in 1968*



*FARM MUSEUM, built as a barn in 1782, moved to its present site in 1930*



FARM MUSEUM INTERIOR



*The raising of broom corn and the manufacture of brooms were once important to the economy of Hadley. To the left is a broom corn machine.*



FARM EQUIPMENT



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH



*The First Congregational Church was built in 1804. This is the third building. It was moved from West Street to its present location in 1841. The building is a Charles Bulfinch type with a beautiful spire in the style of Christopher Wren. Rev. Stanley J. Parker is the present minister.*



INTERIOR OF THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH



*Rev. Stanley J. Parker*



MIDDLE STREET



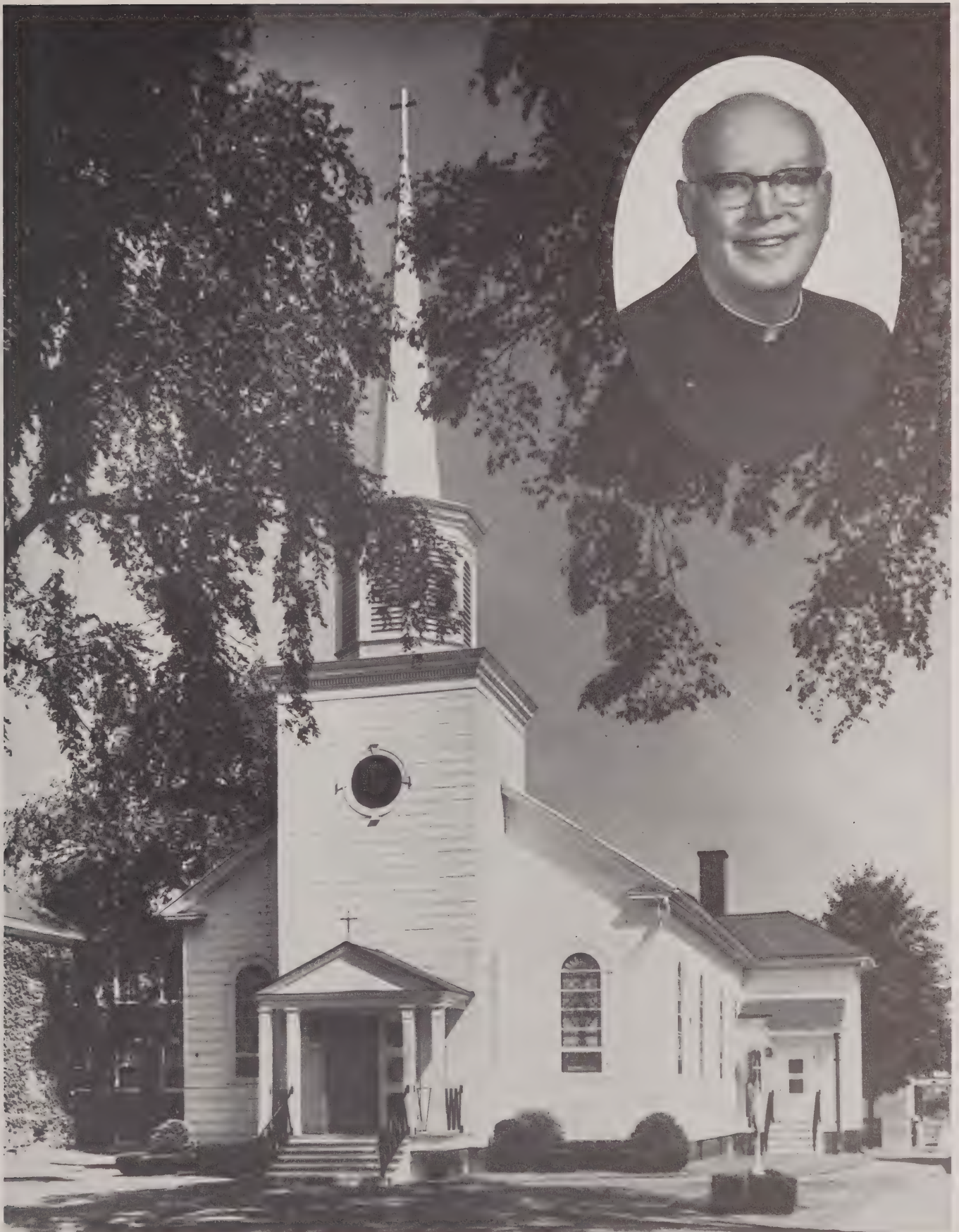
*An early streetscape of Middle Street*



*The same view in 1976*



ST. JOHN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH



*The church was built in 1902. The steeple was added in 1965. Rev. Cornelius F. Donoghue became the first resident pastor in 1915. Rev. John B. Hughes is the present pastor pictured above.*



GOODWIN MEMORIAL LIBRARY



*The library was named in honor of William Goodwin, one of Hadley's early residents and benefactors. The Hadley Historical Society, Inc. is located on the second floor.*



*Just north of the library is the Hooker School named in honor of Major-General Joseph Hooker.*



NORTHWEST CORNER OF RUSSELL AND MIDDLE STREETS



*Branch offices of two Amherst banks were built on this corner in 1965. Prior to that time, the Shipman house to the left below was located near the corner of Russell and Middle Streets. The house in the lower right photograph is the same house as it appears now in its new location on West Street.*





## CUSTOMER SERVICES



*Shipman's Grocery Store was located in the area of the branch banks in the Center of Hadley. It was also the location of the Hadley Post Office.*



*The general store of yesteryear has many modern faces. Today the Hadley Village Barn complex offers the consumer a variety of products in one shopping area.*



## CUSTOMER SERVICES



*U.S. Post Office, Hadley, Massachusetts 01035, is no longer part of a grocery store or a general store. It is located on Russell Street.*





HADLEY PERSONALITIES



*Clarence Hawkes, blind poet of Hadley*



*Bishop Frederic Dan Huntington, Episcopal Bishop of Central New York State.*



*Mrs. Clifton Johnson, teacher, lecturer, and world traveler*



*Clifton Johnson, artist and author of "Picturesque Hampshire" and many others.*



HADLEY PERSONALITIES



*Minnie Ryan Dwight, lecturer, newspaper editor and publisher*



*Major-Gen. Joseph Hooker  
Civil War hero*



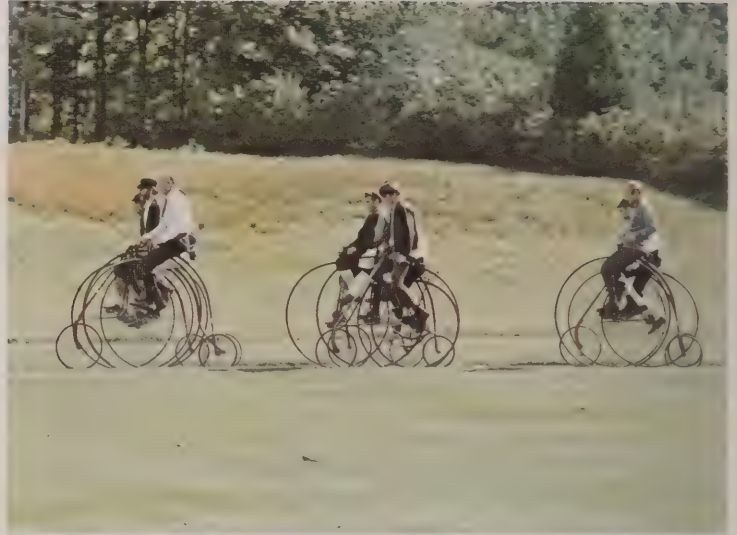
*Elbridge Kingsley, artist and engraver. Many of his works are hanging in Forbes Library in Northampton. More can be found at Mt. Holyoke College in South Hadley.*



# *Colorful Hadley*



*Hadley Center*



*Bicycling in Hadley*



*Autumn Scene*



*Pride of Hadley Tulips*



*Porter-Phelps-Huntington House*



*Cucumber Picker with UMass background*



# Colorful Hadley



*Aerial View of Mt. Holyoke Summit House*



*Hang Gliding in Hockanum*



*North Hadley Pond*



*Winter Scene*



*Tranquility*



*Hadley Weathervane*



*Tent Tobacco*



*Hadley Float in Hampshire Co. Bicentennial Parade*



NORTH OF HADLEY CENTER

THE PORTER-PHELPS-HUNTINGTON HOUSE



*The Porter-Phelps-Huntington House, built by Moses Porter in 1752, is located on Route 47, two miles north of the traffic light at the intersection of Routes 47 and 9. It was donated with its entire contents, to the Porter-Phelps-Huntington Foundation, Inc. by the owners, Dr. and Mrs. James Lincoln Huntington, in 1955. It had been the home of his family for six generations. It is now listed in the National Register of Historic Places.*



## BROOM TOOL INDUSTRY



*General Store and Grist Mill in North Hadley in the early 1920's*



*Present site of the former broom tool factory*



*Caleb D. Dickinson founded the broom tool industry in the United States. In 1840 he purchased water rights on Mill River, North Hadley, and erected a factory. John C. Howe, his son-in-law, joined the business in 1870. Until the mid-nineteen-sixties, broom tools and knives were manufactured by the last owner, Arthur C. Howe.*



SECOND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH



*Located in North Hadley, the Second Congregational Church was built in 1834 and the steeple was added in 1854. Rev. Stanley Parker, minister.*



SOUTH OF HADLEY CENTER



*Old milestone on Bay Road*



*Dam at Old Mill Pond where Fort River crosses Route 47 and Bay Road 1949.*



*Old covered bridge at Hockanum 1949*



RANDOM SHOTS



*1938 Photograph of East Side of Flaherty's Crossing on Route 9. It was erected in the early 1920's.*



*Old Hockanum School and out-building. Both are of brick construction.*



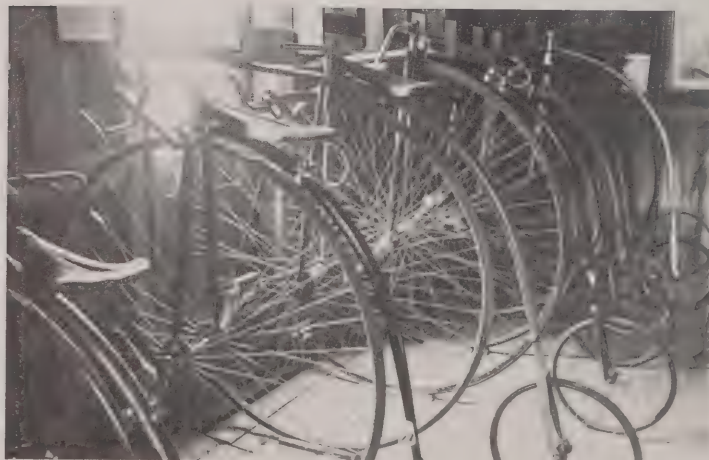
*Flaherty's Crossing overpass was eliminated and the road straightened in 1946. 1938 photograph of west side.*



*Mailbox for Bicycle Museum*



*Flood marker in Hockanum*



*A corner in the Bicycle Museum in Hockanum.*



MT. HOLYOKE SUMMIT HOUSE



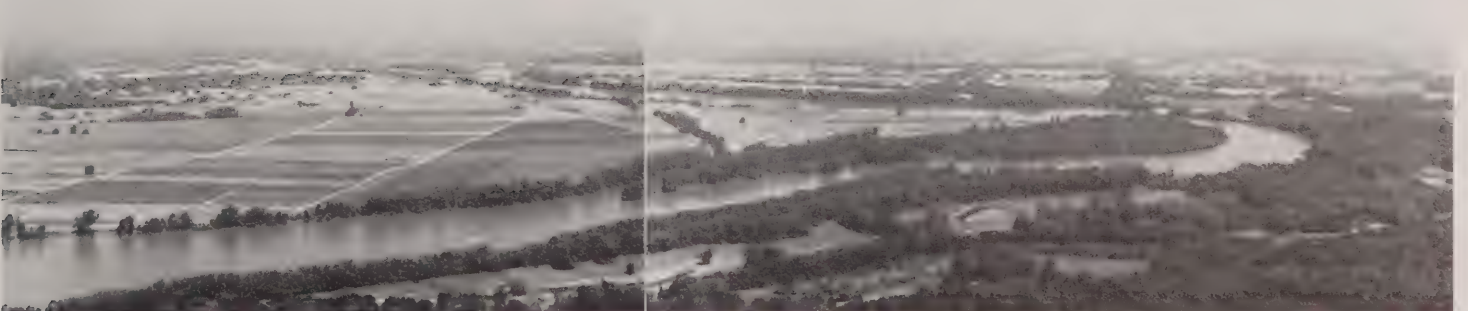
*Mt. Holyoke Summit House was built in 1851. The addition was built in 1894 and was blown away in the 1938 hurricane.*



*1851 section after the hurricane and before the 1976 renovation.*



*Mt. Holyoke Summit House as it looks today*



*Panoramic view from the Mt. Holyoke Summit House*



A STUDY IN CONTRASTS



*A pastoral scene on North Maple St. when elm trees were plentiful and life was leisurely.*



*Time passes and a farm becomes Mountain Farms Mall.*



## HADLEY'S FLOWER INDUSTRY



*Hadley Greenhouses at sunset*



*The Hadley Rose was developed by the Montgomery Company in 1923 and it was the All American Rose in 1924.*



*The Hadley Gardenia was developed by Butler and Ullman, Inc. in 1933 and it took first prize at many national flower shows.*





*A Hadley cucumber picker in action*



*Corn shocks in field off Mt. Warner Road in 1948. Now the location of the former Kollmorgen Optical Plant currently being used by the Hadley School Department.*



*Tying shade grown tobacco*



## AGRICULTURE



*Onions being graded and bagged for the market*



*Summer of 1898 in Hartsbrook*



*The harvest on sale at a roadside stand*



TOBACCO INDUSTRY



*Setting out tobacco plants prior to 1915*



*Cultivating tobacco field about 1914*



*Cutting tobacco about 1914*



TOBACCO INDUSTRY



*Two-horse tobacco rack about 1914*



*Stringing tobacco about 1914*



*A typical Hadley tobacco barn*



FLOODS IN HADLEY



*Looking west from intersection of Routes 9 and 47 on March 22, 1936. Old Hopkins building is on left.*



*Looking east on Route 9. Town Hall and the First Congregational Church are in the background. March, 1936.*



*Flood waters at the Bicycle Museum in Hockanum in 1963*



## NEW HOUSES



*Hadley is a growing community with many new homes. This house is located on Maplewood Terrace.*



*Some new houses are built on the location of other houses that have either been moved or destroyed by fire. This house on West Street is on the site of General Hooker's home. The boulder commemorates Hooker's birthplace.*



RECREATIONAL CENTERS PAST



*The Ben Smith Tavern on the Bay Road at the corner of Middle Street was a favorite stop for weary travelers in earlier days. It is a private home today.*



*The Crain Tavern at the corner of West and Russell Streets was a popular meeting place. It once served as temporary quarters for Hopkins Academy after one of several fires. This old tavern is a private home today.*



RECREATIONAL CENTERS PRESENT



*North Hadley Hall and Fire House*



*Old Hopkins Gym*



*Hadley Young Men's Club on East Street*



*American Legion Home on Russell Street*



MODES OF TRANSPORTATION



*The old Hockanum Ferry*



*Elbridge Kingsley's painting  
"car", the forerunner of the  
modern camper?*



*Horses and wagon at the watering trough at the in-  
tersection of Routes 9 and 47*



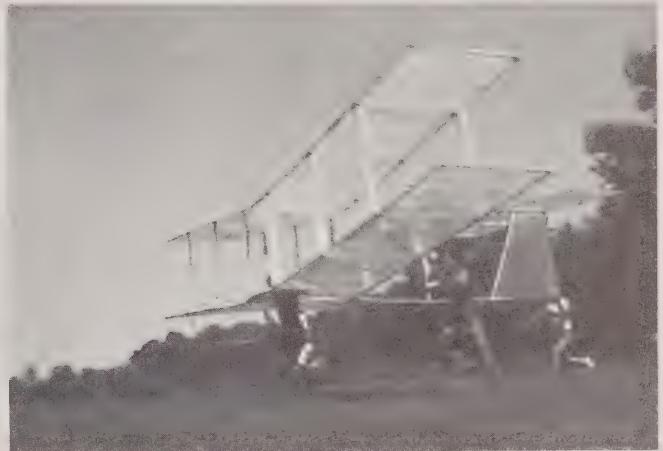
## MODES OF TRANSPORTATION



*Waiting for the train at the old Hadley Railroad Station*



*A bicycle built for four*



*Hang gliding on Mt. Holyoke*



*Trucking is big business in Hadley. Produce can be transported from the farm to city markets in hours.*





*Patriots in Petticoats*  
1975



*Hadley Bicentennial Quilt*



*Hostesses at Farm Museum Open House*



*Mother's Club Bicentennial Flag*

- April 20 Opening program. Ecumenical Service at the First Congregational Church (oldest church in Hadley). Clergy and laity of all Hadley churches participated.
- May 25 Raising of Hadley's Bicentennial Flag at Hopkins Academy
- June 22 Open house at the Hadley Farm Museum with craft demonstrations and stage coach rides
- September 12 "Patriots in Petticoats", famous women in American history
- September 21 Bicycle Tour and Open House at the Bicycle Museum in Hockanum
- October 17 Hope Grange Husking Bee and Square Dance in the old Hopkins Gym
- October 25 Hadley Mothers' Club Bicentennial Bazaar in North Hadley Hall
- November 14 Captain Irving Johnson's illustrated lecture sponsored by the First Congregational Church for the benefit of the Council on Aging
- December 28 Festival of Lights and Sounds on West and Middle Streets sponsored by the Spirit of the Seventies Commission, the Hadley Mothers' Club and the Hope Grange



## BICENTENNIAL EVENTS 1976



*North Hadley Hook and Ladder #5 in Hampshire County Bicentennial Parade*



*Hockanum float in Hampshire County Bicentennial Parade*



*Lions Club Bicentennial Ball*



*Characters in "Bicentennial Reflections"*



*"Bicentennial Reflections" fun means funds for the Hadley Historical Society.*

1976

- May 15,16 Bicentennial Reflections, a variety show for the benefit of the Hadley Historical Society
- June 13 Hadley sent floats, Hopkins Academy Band and marching units to Northampton as part of the Hampshire County Parade
- June 19 Hadley Lions Club Bicentennial Ball at the University of Massachusetts
- June 20, 27 Open House at the Hadley Farm Museum and the Hadley Historical Society
- June 26 Homecoming Day at the First Congregational Church
- July 3 Fireworks Display sponsored by North Hadley Hook and Ladder #5
- July 4 Bell ringing in all churches as part of the national bell ringing program
- September 5 Special Bicentennial Mass at St. John's Church with music by the Welch Chorale from New York and Walter Chesnut, trumpeteer
- November 24 Official closing program. An Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service at Holy Rosary Church (newest church in Hadley). Clergy and laity of all Hadley churches participated.
- December 17 American Legion Post 271 sponsored a post-bicentennial program. Dinner, dancing and a floor show, "Farewell 1976"
- December 26 Third annual Festival of Lights and Sounds on the West Street Common and Middle Street



FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS AND SOUNDS



*Begun in 1974, the Festival of Lights and Sounds has become an annual event of the Sunday after Christmas.*



*Sleigh rides, carol singing, lighted windows are all part of Hadley's Festival of Lights and Sounds.*



## HADLEY CHEST

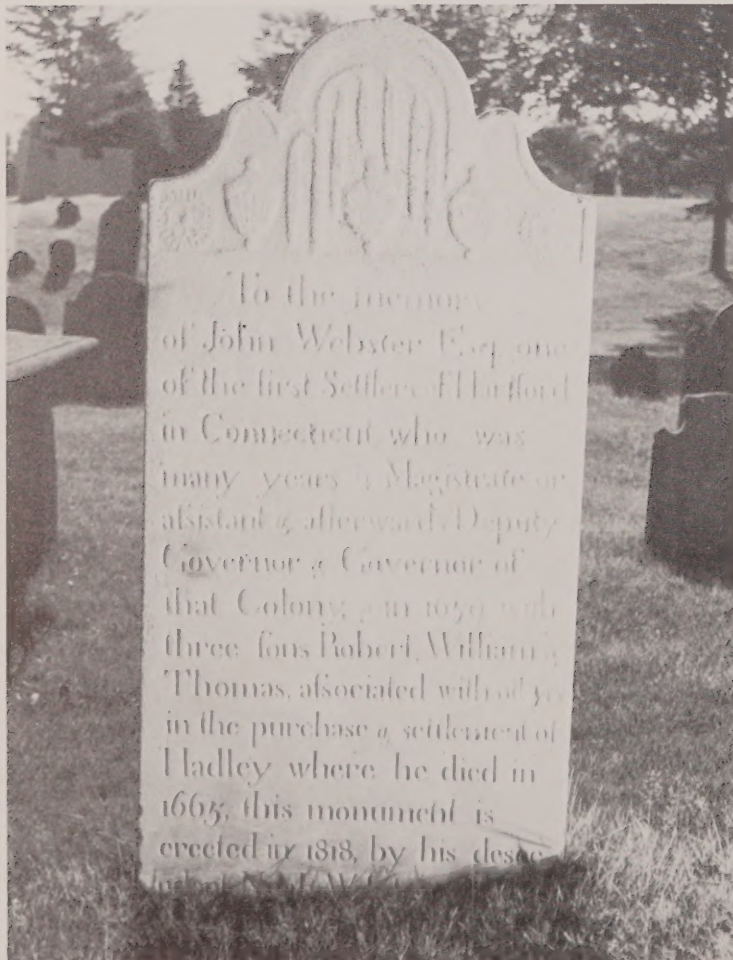


*"The Hadley Chest" by Clair Franklin Luther explains in detail the history, meaning, and location of Hadley Chests. The illustration above is of the chest made for Sarah Strong. At present it is located in Northampton.*





*Table stones in the Old Hadley Cemetery*



*This stone was erected by Noah Webster in 1818 in memory of John Webster, an early Hadley Settler.*





## HADLEY BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION

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Projects Chairmen: Carole Trane, Marcia Davies

Secretary: Evelyn Hahn

Parade Chairmen: Joseph Fitzgibbon, Earl Hahn

Beautification Chairmen: Theodore Johnson, Jr., Frances Machno

Clubs and Organizations: Earle Parsons, Mabel West

Bicentennial Reflections: Mac Gress, Jack Whitlock, Bernard Pitkin

### "HADLEY, THEN AND NOW" COMMITTEE

Co-chairmen: Stanley Bemben, Bertille Drozdal, Margaret C. Dwyer

Technical Advisors: John Clough, Holly Hobbie

Members: John Devine, John Getsinger, Fern Nutter, Elinor V. Smith, Dorothy M. Russell

### PHOTOGRAPHIC CREDITS

Photographs throughout this publication were taken by, and processed by or loaned by the following individuals, newspapers and organizations. Every effort was made to obtain photographs to illustrate the many facets of life in Hadley. The committee appreciates the assistance offered by so many people and regrets that many of the illustrations could not be used because of space limitations and the possibility of poor reproductions.

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Stanley Bemben 30b

— John Russell 30a, 30c

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